**In the Claims:**

Please amend the claims as indicated.

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for filtering out selected key codes transmitted between a keyboard and a host computer, the apparatus comprising:

an input port configured to receive a stream of key codes transmitted from a keyboard, wherein key codes of the stream of key codes comprise make key codes corresponding to keys that are pressed, and release key codes corresponding to keys that are released, and wherein each key on the keyboard is characterized by a unique make key code and a unique release key code;

a filtering module, operably connected with the input port and storing a rules table containing key codes, combinations of key codes, and rules associated with each key code and the combinations of key codes, each rule specifying whether a key code and combination of key codes is to be blocked or transmitted, a make list storing a list of make key codes that have been received and transmitted to the host computer and for which corresponding release key codes have not been received, and a block list storing a list of make key codes that have been received and blocked from the host computer and for which corresponding release key codes have not been received, wherein the filtering module identifies combinations of key codes as the key codes of the make list, the filtering module configured to block only key codes and combinations of key codes of the stream of key codes selected in accordance with the rules table; and

an output port, operably connected with the filtering module, the output port configured to pass unblocked key codes to a host computer[[.]], wherein the combination of key codes corresponds to a combination of keys being pressed simultaneously.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the filtering module is implemented independent of the keyboard and the host computer.

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3. (Previously amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the filtering module further comprises a processor configured to execute computer code for blocking the key codes and the combinations of key codes.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the filtering module further comprises a memory device connected to the processor for storing the computer code.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the filtering module comprises a microcontroller.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the microcontroller is configured to operate using power received from the host computer.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the functionality of the filtering module is provided by a combination of electrical hardware and computer software executing on a CPU.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the filtering module is located proximate to at least one of the keyboard and the host computer.

12. (Currently amended) A method for filtering out selected key codes transmitted between a keyboard and a host computer, the method comprising:

intercepting a stream of key codes transmitted between a keyboard and a host computer, wherein key codes of the stream of key codes comprise make key codes corresponding to keys that are pressed and release key codes corresponding to keys that are released, and wherein each key on the keyboard is characterized by a unique make key code and a unique release key code;

testing the key codes with a rules table containing key codes, combinations of key codes, and rules associated with each key code and the combinations of key codes, each rule specifying whether a key code and combination of key codes is to be blocked or transmitted;

testing the key codes of the stream of key codes with a make list containing a list of make key codes that have been received and transmitted to the host computer and for which corresponding release key codes have not been received;

testing the key codes of the stream of key codes with a block list containing a list of make key codes that have been received and blocked from the host computer and for which corresponding release key codes have not been received;

blocking, independently from the keyboard and host computer, only key codes and combinations of key codes of the stream of key codes selected in accordance with the rules table; and

passing unblocked key codes from the stream of key codes to the host computer, wherein the combination of key codes corresponds to a combination of keys being pressed simultaneously.

13. (Canceled)


14. (Canceled)


15. (Canceled)


16. (Canceled)


17. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein blocking further comprises blocking with a combination of hardware and software.


18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein a memory device stores the rules table and the method further comprises~~ing~~ reprogramming the memory device to alter the rules.


19. (Currently amended) A system for filtering out selected key codes transmitted between a keyboard and a host computer, the system comprising:

a keyboard configured to generate key codes of a stream of key codes, wherein the key codes comprise make key codes corresponding to keys that are pressed and release key codes corresponding to keys that are released, and wherein each key on the keyboard is characterized by a unique make key code and a unique release key code;

a key code filter storing a rules table containing key codes, combinations of key codes, and rules associated with each key code and the combinations of key codes, each rule specifying whether a key code and combination of key codes is to be blocked or transmitted, a

make list storing a list of make key codes that have been received and transmitted to the host computer and for which corresponding release key codes have not been received, and a block list storing a list of make key codes that have been received and blocked from the host computer and for which corresponding release key codes have not been received, wherein the key code filter identifies combinations of key codes as the key codes of the make list, the key code filter configured to receive a stream of key codes from the keyboard and block only ~~key codes,~~ ~~sequences of key codes,~~ and combinations of key codes of the stream of key codes selected in accordance with the rules table; and

a host computer configured to receive unblocked key codes from the key code filter, wherein the combination of key codes corresponds to a combination of keys being pressed simultaneously.

20. (Previously presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the key code filter is implemented independently of the keyboard and the host computer.

21. (Currently amended) An apparatus for filtering out selected key codes transmitted between a keyboard and a host computer, the apparatus comprising:

a key code filter configured to intercept a stream of key codes transmitted between a keyboard and a host computer, wherein key codes of the stream of key codes comprise make key codes corresponding to keys that are pressed, and release key codes corresponding to keys that are released, and wherein each key on the keyboard is characterized by a unique make key code and a unique release key code and to test the intercepted key codes with a rules table containing key codes, combinations of key codes, and rules associated with each key code and the combinations of key codes, each rule specifying whether a key code and combination of key codes is to be blocked or transmitted, a make list storing a list of make key codes that have been

received and transmitted to the host computer and for which corresponding release key codes have not been received, and a block list storing a list of make key codes that have been received and blocked from the host computer and for which corresponding release key codes have not been received, wherein the key code filter identifies combinations of key codes as the key codes of the make list; and

the key code filter further configured to block transmission of only key codes, ~~sequences of key codes,~~ and combinations of key codes of the stream of key codes selected in accordance with the rules table, wherein the combination of key codes corresponds to a combination of keys being pressed simultaneously.


22.  (Currently amended) A software program product comprising a CPU-useable medium having a CPU-readable program, wherein the CPU-readable program when executed on a CPU causes the CPU to:

receive key codes from a keyboard, wherein key codes comprise make key codes corresponding to keys that are pressed, and release key codes corresponding to keys that are released, and wherein each key on the keyboard is characterized by a unique make key code and a unique release key code;

test the key codes with a rules table containing key codes, combinations of key codes, and rules associated with each key code and the combinations of key codes, each rule specifying whether a key code and combination of key codes is to be blocked or transmitted; ~~and~~

test the received key codes with a make list containing a list of make key codes that have been received and transmitted to the host computer and for which corresponding release key codes have not been received;

test the received key codes with a block list containing a list of make key codes that have been received and blocked from the host computer and for which corresponding release

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key codes have not been received and wherein blocking one of selected key codes and combinations of key codes comprises consulting the block list; and

block from transmission to a host computer, independently from the keyboard and the host computer, only a key code set selected in accordance with the rules table, the key code set selected from a key code, ~~a sequences of key codes,~~ and a combinations of key codes, wherein the combination of key codes corresponds to a combination of keys being pressed simultaneously.


23. (Canceled)


24. (Canceled)


25. (Currently amended) An apparatus for filtering out selected key codes transmitted between a keyboard and a host computer, the apparatus comprising:

a filtering module configured to receive a stream of key codes and block at least one of selected key codes, ~~sequences of key codes,~~ and combinations of key codes, wherein key codes of the stream of key codes comprise make key codes corresponding to keys that are pressed, and release key codes corresponding to keys that are released, and wherein each key on the keyboard is characterized by a unique make key code and a unique release key code, the filtering module storing

a rules table containing key codes, combinations of key codes, and rules associated with each key code and the combinations of key codes, each rule specifying whether a key code and combination of key codes is blocked or transmitted;

a make list containing a list of make key codes that have been received and transmitted to the host computer and for which corresponding release key codes have not

been received;

a block list containing a list of make key codes that have been received and blocked from the host computer and for which corresponding release key codes have not been received; and

the filtering module further configured to block only key codes and combinations of key codes of the stream of key codes selected in accordance with the rules table, wherein the combination of key codes corresponds to a combination of keys being pressed simultaneously.

26. (Canceled)

27.     (Canceled)

28.     (Canceled)

29.     (Canceled)

30.     (Canceled)